

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KARACH 04339 101245Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SVC-00 /033 W
-----075265 101417Z /46

R 101125Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS KARACHI 4339

FOR NEA/PAB FROM MOUNTAIN OFFICER (USDAO)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: K-2 EXPEDITION MESSAGE

REF: STATE 225104

1. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE UNABLE TO MEET SEATTLE SUN TIMES AND KIRO RADIO AND TV REQUEST FOR TWO-WAY RADIO PHONE PATCH TO AMERICAN K-2 EXPEDITION. NECESSARY EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE.

2. EXPEDITION LEADER WHITTAKER EXPECTED IN SKARDU O/A SEPTEMBER 12 WHERE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH MEDIA CONTACT. HOWEVER, IF CONNECTION IMPOSSIBLE FROM THERE WHITTAKER WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE REACHES ISLAMABAD TO MAKE CALLS OUT.

3. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 6 FROM WHITTAKER (RELAYED BY GOP MIN TOURISM) FOR PASSAGE TO INTERESTED PARTIES: QUOTE:
THE AMERICAN K-2 EXPEDITION, LED BY JIM WHITTAKER, PUT TWO CLIMBERS ON THE TOP OF K-2, THE SECOND HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD. THEY OVERCAME THE HAZARDS OF THE KARAKORAM TO BECOME THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN EXPEDITION. THIS IS THE SIXTH AMERICAN ATTEMPT ON K-2. JIM WHITTAKER ATTEMPTED THIS TRICKY PEAK IN 1975, WHEN THE TEAM TRIED TO CLIMB IN FROM THE VIRGIN NORTHEAST RIDGE, BUT ABANDONED THE ROUTE AT 22,000 FEET FOLLOWING SEVERE SNOW-
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STORMS. THE TWO CLIMBERS WHO STOOD ON THE TOP OF K-2 ARE JIM WICKWIRE, WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE 1975 EXPEDITION, AND LOUIS FRENCH RICKHARDT, A VERY STRONG HIGH ALTITUDE CLIMBER. THEY REACHED THE SUMMIT AT 1730 SEPTEMBER 6. TWO MORE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION REACHED THE SUMMIT SEPTEMBER 7.
UNQUOTE.
MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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